

Weekly Wild Wednesday

For November 11th, 2020

Hello there, it is the Season of Change! The snow is so beautiful, and icicles are sparkling in the sunbursts.

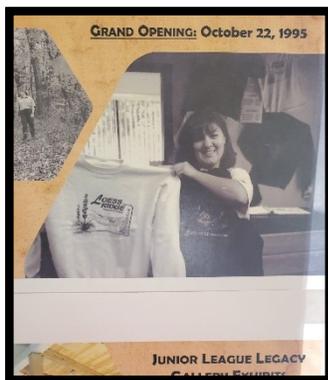
All three Grow Wild Test Site gardens are growing Deep Roots, and hibernating this week! Zzzz...

Grow Wild Signage is awaiting the updated Homegrown National Park artwork.



Tom and Cheri are testing out Circle Seeding in previously prepared ex-brome areas, growing single species in these areas. This will continue their Native Plant Specimen Area.

Citizen Scientist at play!



Dawn saved a truckload of cardboard--which I picked up at a visit to the Nature Center-- for the Test Gardens at 18320 Talbot.

The exhibits for the 20 year celebration are still in place, and well worth a visit! I still have that sweatshirt.

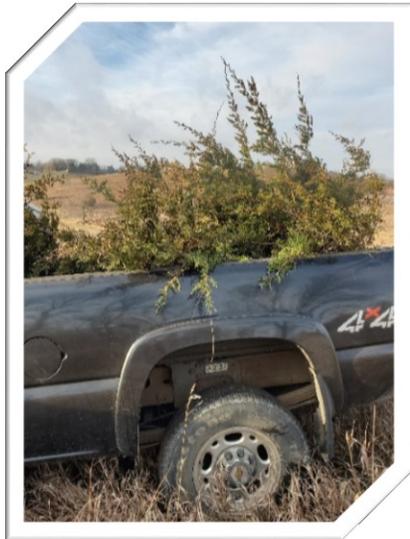


Sara, Mercedes, and I went on a hike in the Sioux City Prairie, and we found some seeds which Dianne identified as Ground Plum! We left them where we found them after they posed for a glamour shot.



Stone State Park and the Zales Property both had Prescribed Burns this week prior to the rains and snow. Perfect timing.

Wild Ones has a new Executive Director, Jen Ainsworth! There is a bio that I can share if you did not already receive this in your email.



This is an excellent time for removing aggressive and invasive plants. They are so much easier to see and to remove now that most of the Native species have become dormant. Plus many make beautiful sustainable Winter decorations for porches, driveway entries, mailboxes, and wreaths-- while providing Winter shelter in these areas for small creatures. Win/Win!

Pollinator Plants

Pollen = Protein and Lipids

- Pale purple coneflower
- Purple prairie clover
- Milkweeds
- Ironweed
- Asters
- Rattlesnake master
- Goldenrods

Photo: Black and gold bumble bee, Sarah Fitz-Jordan, Xerces Society

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The highlight of the week was the Zoom Presentation by Sara Nizzi from Xerces Society, entitled *'Native Plant Gardening to Attract and Protect Pollinators'*.



Inside the Nest

Cross-section of silk cocoons →

← Mud cap closure

Silk cocoons with dormant bees inside

via USAARS, Eric Lee-Mader

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Presented by Loess Hills Wild Ones, and skillfully hosted by Carrie, this program was excellent and approachable.

Sara reminded us to Save the Date for the Annual Winter Iowa Prairie Network Meeting.

www.iowaprairienetwork.org



There was a short class on YouTube about Hugelkultur, which was fascinating! This can be done in raised beds to inexpensively fill space --or in a trench in the ground.

There are many videos, one that really stood out was an enthusiastic Australian Mark Velencia who hosts a blog and YouTube channel called 'Self Sufficient Me' entitled 'What happens when you bury logs in the veggie garden raised bed' 11 minutes long. He deconstructs a 3 year old bed to show what happens with this process.

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Stay warm, and safe!



HOME GROWN NATIONAL PARK